

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14971

FOR EUR/WE AND VO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CIVS, IT, US

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY VISIT TO US

REF: JUNIOR-MOEN TELCON, OCTOBER 7

SUMMARY: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, AFTER MANY FALSE STARTS AND EXTENSIVE PLANNING, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL GROUP OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION (CHAIRMAN, REPRESENTATIVE JARMAN), WILL NEXT MONTH RECIPROCATATE ITALIAN HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THE US GROUP DURING A RED-CARPET VISIT TO ROME IN SEPTEMBER, 1972. THE NINE MAN (PLUS AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF WIVES) ITALIAN GROUP WILL BE LED BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT GIULIO ANDREOTTI, MINISTER OF THE BUDGET, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND FUND FOR THE SOUTH, AND WILL HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL ITALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS (PCI) AND THE MOVIMENTO SOCIALE ITALIANO (MSI). THE OFFICIAL VISIT IN WASHINGTON IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 3 AND 4, AND IS TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN EXTENSIVE TOUR OF THE AMERICAN WEST IN AN AIRCRAFT TO BE PROVIDED BY USAF. THE VISIT WILL INVOLVE POTENTIALLY SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES IN BOTH COUNTRIES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH CONCERNS VISAS FOR THE COMMUNIST AND MSI MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE AMERICAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION GROUP (IPU) HAS RECENTLY INFORMED THE ITALIAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION GROUP THAT IT IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE IT IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY NOVEMBER TO REPAY ITALIAN HOSPITALITY TO THE AMERICAN GROUP IN 1972. DR. RICCIUTI, SECRETARY OF THE ITALIAN GROUP HAS PROVIDED US
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WITH A LIST OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO ARE EXPECTED

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IPU VISIT. PARTICIPANTS WITH PARTY AFFILIATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A) ON. GIULIO ANDREOTTI, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, CHIEF OF DELEGATION;

B) SENATOR GIUSEPPE VEDOVATI, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT;

C) SENATOR FRANCO CALAMANDREI, PCI (BORN DEPT. 21, 1917 AT FLORENCE);

D) ON. SERGIO SEGRE, PCI (BORN SEPT. 15, 1926 AT TURIN);

E) ON. PIETRO LEZZI, SOCIALIST;

F) ON. GIUSEPPE AMADEI, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT;

G) SENATOR GIORGIO BERGAMASCO, LIBERAL;

H) ON. LUIGI TURCHI, MSI;

I) SENATOR MICHELE CIFARELLI, REPUBLICAN;

J) DR. RICCIUTI.

2. ACCORDING TO RICCIUTI, HE HAS, AT MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S REQUEST, CONTACTED THE ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON ASKING IT TO OBTAIN SOONEST MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE VISIT AND THE PROGRAM, I.E., EXACT DATES, ITINERARY, INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM THE DELEGATION WILL HAVE APPOINTMENTS. (IN A CONVERSATION WITH ME, ANDREOTTI EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST IN OBTAINING THIS INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.) GROUP PLANS TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 3 (PREVIOUS DAY IF PROGRAM TO START NOVEMBER 3 AND SUNDAY ARRIVAL NOT INCONVENIENT FOR HOSTS.) PARTICIPANTS DESIRE TO END OFFICIAL VISIT IN NEW YORK WHERE AT LEAST SOME INTEND TO REMAIN FOR 2-3 DAY PRIVATE STAY PRIOR TO RETURN TO ITALY. MINISTER ANDREOTTI PLANS TO ARRIVE IN THE U.S. SEVERAL DAYS AHEAD OF THE OTHERS TO TAKE CARE OF PERSONAL BUSINESS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST TO CONGRESSIONAL ORGANIZERS THAT THEY PROVIDE ASAP SPECIFIC DETAILS ON VISIT TO ITALIAN EMBASSY FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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TRANSMISSION TO RICCIUTI.

3. IN A PRIVATE TALK, MINISTER ANDREOTTI TOLD ME THAT IT WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY INJURIOUS TO THE US POSITION NOT TO ISSUE VISAS TO PCI MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WHO WOULD BE TRAVELLING ON PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS AT THE INVITATION OF AN AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL GROUP. HE EXPECTS THAT HE CAN GENERALLY CONTROL THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PERIOD IN NEW YORK. ADDITIONALLY,

HE RECALLED TO ME THAT DURING THE PLANNING OF A SIMILAR TRIP TO THE USSR SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THE PCI PARLIAMENTARIANS INFORMED THE SOVIETS THAT THEY WOULD CANCEL THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE VISIT IF VISAS WERE NOT ISSUED TO THE MSI MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION.

4. COMMENT: I CONCUR WITH MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION, AND RECOMMEND THAT VISAS BE ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WITH WAIVERS BEING OBTAINED FOR CALIMANDREI AND SEGRE. PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUP OF BOTH PCI AND MSI PARLIAMENTARIANS SHOULD SERVE TO NEUTRALIZE ANY POSSIBLE POLITICAL FALL-OUT THAT THE VISIT WOULD HAVE IN ITALY. AT THE SAME TIME, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A HIGH LEVEL APPOINTMENT FOR ANDREOTTI OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE IN RECOGNITION OF HIS IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

5. ABOVE DRAFTED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF STATE 245208. EMBASSY WILL PASS MESSAGE FROM REPRESENTATIVE JARMAN TO SENATOR VEDOVATI AND REPORT IF ANY NEW DETAILS DEVELOP. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO URGE REPRESENTATIVE JARMAN TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY MINISTER ANDREOTTI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO AUTHORIZE VISAS FOR SEGRE AND CALIMANDREI. BIO INFORMATION FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.VOLPE

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